

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Inter-professional Fellowship Program in Patient Safety

The purpose of the patient safety fellowship is to provide post-residency trained physicians and post-doctoral or post-masters degree trained professionals in-depth education in patient safety practice and leadership. The VA National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS) offers this one-year fellowship in patient safety at six different VA training sites. VA patient safety fellows focus on developing the knowledge and skills necessary to lead administrative patient safety efforts within a healthcare system. Fellows are not required to participate in clinical responsibilities associated with their degree but may have the option to do so if they are interested.

The patient safety fellowship consists of active participation in real-time patient safety activities as well as an intensive self-directed learning. At the start of the fellowship, fellows work with the Co-Directors to establish individualized objectives and an expected timetable for accomplishment of these objectives. Objectives for the patient safety fellows include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitating and eventually leading patient safety activities in a VHA facility
- Participating in Root Cause Analyses and Healthcare Failure Mode and Effect Analyses
- Coordinating facility activities with those of external patient safety entities, such as NCPS
- Envisioning, introducing, and assessing innovative facility-based patient safety interventions
- Attending and contributing to facility leadership committees
- Introducing strategies to implement Joint Commission Patient Safety Goals at the facility level
- Serving as a resource to VA employees in matters of patient safety

Successful completion of a quality improvement or research project in patient safety is a requirement for completion of the fellowship. Fellows are encouraged to identify a mentor and to select a project early in the year. Fellows are encouraged to present their project at a regional or national meeting and submit their project for publication in a national journal.

VA Pittsburgh has a specific concentration in healthcare human factors. VA Pittsburgh is the site of the Center for Medical Product End-User Testing, which is focused on applying human factors methodology to inform the purchase, implementation, and design of safe medical products. Fellows in Pittsburgh have the unique opportunity to contribute to projects that will facilitate the safest use of medical products in the delivery of care to Veterans across the VA.

The patient safety fellowship is open to applicants with a range of backgrounds. VA Pittsburgh accepts U.S. Citizens from a variety of backgrounds who are interested in patient safety. Previous fellows have had degrees in medicine, nursing psychology, engineering, pharmacy, and dentistry. To apply, send a cover letter and CV to the Fellowship Co-Directors:

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